U.K., Holland, West Germany and USSR. In recent years, the bulk of our export of this commodity have been to USSR.

(d) No specific terms of export are stipulated in respect of HPS Groundnut. While exports to GCA are against 100 per cent letter of credit, the export to Rupee payment Currency areas have as per recent amendment been permitted against 98 per cent irrevocable letter of credit subject to the balance 2 per cent being repatriated within 6 months from the date of shipment of the first consignment.

(e) As against an export target of Rs. 2000 crores for the year 1986-87, the export of HPS Groundnut are likely to be approximately Rs. 25.00 crores.

Write-up captioned "Forest Policy Unheeded"

2214. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up published in the Hindustan Times of the 14th January, 1987 captioned "Forest Policy unheeded";

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Forest Policy of bringing one-third of the geographical areas under forest has failed as 43.28 lakh hectares of forest land has been lost from 1952 to 1980 and that recently 7 lakh hectares of forest land is under encroachment in various States and Union Territories; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to implement the National Forest Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of increasing the forest area to one-third of the geographical area of the country, has not been attained.

(c) The followng steps are being taken by the Government to implement the National Forest Policy:—

(i) Reforestation of degraded forests.

(ii) Afforestation of wastelands to reduce biological pressure on existing forests.

(iii) Soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalayas (Operation Soil-Watch).

(iv) Development of infrastructure for the protection of forests from biotic intereference.

(v) Creation of National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries.

(vi) Implementation of the Forest Conservation. Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest lands for non-forest purposes.

(vii) Issue of guidelines from the Centre for the better management and protection of existing forests.

(viii) Development of alternative sources for domestic energy.

(ix) Substitution of wood by alternative material in packing, railway sleepers and building construction.

(x) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been initiated wherein the Central Government would provide matching contribution to the States on non-recurring items of expenditure to afford special protection to the identified areas.

(xi) The National Forest Policy is being reviewed with a view to provide the needed thrust in favour of forest conservation.